

REMARKS

Further consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In an effort to simply the issues and to simultaneously respond to the outstanding restriction requirement, applicant has now cancelled all original claims 1-65 without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 66-89 -- which claims are believed to fit within the patentably distinct invention A. For example, new independent claim 66 is similar to original claim 17 of invention A.

The new claims find support in the "first aspect of the invention" as presented on page 2 of the application as filed, particularly the feature of the synchronous ring network operating at different speeds on different segments. This feature described in detail in relation to the double speed network of Figures 7-18, and especially in Figure 12, 13 and 14 of the application as originally filed. The most relevant part of the description is at page 20, line 3 to page 21, line 23.

New claim 70 corresponds to original claim 9. The wording of this claim has been corrected to agree with the system described in the description as filed (see page 27, lines 19-28). It should be noted that although dependencies have changed, the feature of synchronization with source data is common throughout the embodiment and mentioned in relation to the present invention specifically at page 18, line 28 to page 19, line 8.

Further apparatus claims 71-77 provide corresponding protection focused on the network interface and an apparatus for use as a single station in the local communication system before described.

New method claims 78-89 correspond respectively to new apparatus claims 66-77.

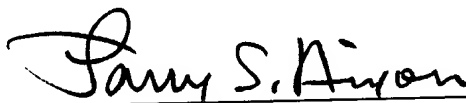
Allowance of all now pending claims 66-89 is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claim(s) by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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